

## CLAIMS

1. A method of activating a lower alcohol which comprises bringing the lower alcohol into contact with a substance activated by heating and pressurizing in the presence of wood vinegar and/or bamboo vinegar or with a material formed by processing the substance.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the substance is selected from the group consisting of inorganic substances such as ceramics, natural stones, glass and silicon dioxide; metals such as aluminum, titanium, stainless and iron; noble metals such as gold and silver; and organic substances such as resins.
3. The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the pressure is 5 to 50 atm.
4. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the wood vinegar is wood vinegar derived from a broadleaf tree, a needle-leaved tree, or the like.
5. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the activated substance is silicon dioxide and a material formed by processing the substance is glass.
6. A lower alcohol which is activated by the method according

to any one of claims 1 to 5.

7. The activated lower alcohol according to claim 6, wherein the lower alcohol is ethanol and/or isobutanol.

8. A lower alcohol comprising the activated lower alcohol according to claim 6 or 7 in an amount of 0.5% or more.

9. The activated lower alcohol according to claim 8, wherein the content of the activated lower alcohol is 0.5 to 10 wt %.

10. A fuel additive comprising the one or more lower alcohols according to claim 8 or 9.

11. A fuel additive comprising the one or more lower alcohols according to claim 8 or 9 in an amount of 1 to 80 wt %.

12. The fuel additive according to claim 10 or 11, further comprising petroleum distillate.

13. A fuel composition comprising a fuel and the fuel additive according to any one of claims 10 to 12.

14. The fuel composition according to claim 13, wherein the content of the fuel additive is 5 to 70 wt %.

15. The fuel composition according to claim 13 or 14, wherein

the fuel is gasoline, light oil, or heavy oil.